1560/724

AN

ACCOUNT

How the

Earl of Essex

Killed Himself in the

Tower of London,

The 13*th.* of *July* 1683. As it appears by the Coroners Inquest, and the several Informations following.

THe Information of *Paul Bomeny*, Servant to the Earl of *Essex*, for about three or four years now last past; taken upon Oath the fourteenth Day of *July*, *Anno Regni Caroli Secundi Dei Gratia*, *Anglia*, *Scotia*, *Francia & Hibernia Regis*, *Fidei Defensoris*, &c. *Tricesimo Quinto*, *Annoq; Domini* 1683.

SAith, That when my Lord came to Captain Hawley, *which was the* 11. *Instant*, *my Lord of* Essex *asked him for a Pen-Knife to Pare his Nails*, *as he was wont to do*; *to which this Informant answered*, *Being come in haste*, *he had not brought it*, *but he would send for one*, *and accordingly sent the Footman with a Note for several things for my Lord*, *amongst which the Pen-Knife was inserted*; *and the Footman went*, *and gave the Bill to my Lords Steward*, *who sent the Provisions*, *but not the Pen-Knife*, *and he told the Footman*, *he would get one the next day. When the Footman was come*, *my Lord asked*, *if the Pen-Knife was come? This Informant answered*, *No*, *but he should have it the next day*, *and accordingly*, *he on the twelfth Instant in the morning*, *before my Lord of* Essex *was up*, *this Informant sent the Footman home with a Note to the Steward*, *in which*, *amongst other things*, *he asked for a Pen-Knife for my Lord*; *and when the Footman was gone*, *about*, *or a little after eight of the Clock*, *My Lord sent one Mr.* Russel, *his Warder*, *to this Informant*, *who came*, *and then he asked him*, *if the Pen-Knife was come? This Informant said*, *No*, *my Lord*, *but I shall have it by and by*; *to which my Lord said*, *That he should bring him one of his Rasours*, *it would do as well*; *And then this Informant went and fetched one*, *and gave it to my Lord*; *Who then went to Pare his Nails*, *and then this Informant went out of the Room into the Passage by the Door*, *on* Friday *the thirteenth Instant*, *and began to talk with*

 the

the Warder, and a little while after he went down Stairs; and ſoon after came the Footman with the Proviſions, and brought alſo a Pen-Knife, which this Informant put upon his Bed, and thought my Lord had no more need of it, becauſe he thought he had Pared his Nails; and then this Informant came up to my Lords Chamber, about eight or nine in the Forenoon, on Friday *the thirteenth Inſtant, with a little Note from the Steward; but not finding his Lord in the Chamber, went to the Cloſe-ſtool Cloſet-Door, and found it ſhut; And he thinking his Lord was buſie there, went down, and ſtaid a little, and came up again, thinking his Lord had been come out of the Cloſet; And finding him not in the Chamber, he knocked at the Door with his Finger, thrice, and ſaid, my Lord? But no body anſwering, he took up the Hanging, and looking through the Chink, he ſaw Blood, and a part of the Raſour; Whereupon he called the Warder,* Ruſſel, *and went down to call for help; and the ſaid* Ruſſel *puſhed the Door open, and there they ſaw my Lord of* Eſſex *all along the Floor, without a Periwig, and all full of Blood, and the Raſour by him. And this Deponent further Depoſeth, That the Raſour now ſhewed to him, at the time of his Examination, is the ſame Raſour which he did bring to my Lord, and which did lie on the Ground in the Cloſet, by my Lord.*

BOMENY.

The

THe Information of *Thomas Ruſſel* one of the Warders of the *Tower*, who had the Cuſtody of the Earl of *Eſſex*, taken the Fourteenth day of *July*, *Anno Regni Caroli Secundi*, *Dei Gratia Angliæ*, *Scotiæ*, *Franciæ*, *& Hiberniæ Regis*, *Fidei Defenſor'*, &c. *Triceſimo Quinto*, *Annoque Dom.* 1683.

SAith, That on *Friday* the Thirteenth Inſtant, about Eight or Nine of the Clock in the Forenoon, he was preſent when he did hear the Lord of *Eſſex* call to his Man Mr. *Bomeny* for a Pen-knife to pare his nails, and then for a Raſour, which Mr. *Bomeny* brought him, and then my Lord walked up and down the Room ſcraping his nails with the Raſour, and ſhut the outward door; Mr. *Bomeny*, half a quarter of an hour afterwards, not finding my Lord in his Bed-Chamber, went down ſtairs again, believing that my Lord was then private in his Cloſet. *Bomeny* came up about a quarter of an hour afterwards, and knocked at the door, then called, My Lord, My Lord, My Lord; but he not anſwering, peeped through a Chink of the door, and did ſee the Earl of *Eſſex* lying on the ground in the Cloſet, whereupon he did cry out, That My Lord was faln down ſick; and then this Informant went to the Cloſet-door, and opened it, the Key being on the outſide, and then did ſee my Lord lye on the ground in his bloud, his Throat being cut.

Thomas Ruſſel.

THe Information of *Robert Sherwood* of *Fanchurch Street*, Chyrurgion, taken the Fourteenth day of *July*, *Anno Regni Caroli Secundi*, *Dei Gratia*, *Angliæ*, *Scotiæ*, *Franciæ*, *& Hiberniæ Regis*, *Fidei Defenſor'*, &c. *Triceſimo Quinto*, *Annoq;* Dom. 1683.

SAith, That he hath viewed the Throat of the Earl of *Eſſex*, and does find that there is a large Wound, and that the *Aſpera Arteria*, or Wind-pipe, and the Gullet, with the *Jugular Arteries*, are all divided: Of which Wound he certainly died.

Robert Sherwood.

THe Information of *Robert Andrews* of *Crutchet Friers* Chyrurgion taken upon Oath the Fourteenth day of *July*, *Anno* Regni *Caroli Secundi nunc* Regis *Angliæ*, &c. *Triceſimo Quinto*, *Annoque* Dom. 1683.

SAith, That he hath viewed the Throat of the Lord of *Eſſex*, and does find, That it was cut from the one *Jugular* to the other, and through the Wind-pipe and Gullet, unto the *Vertebres* of the Neck, both *Jugular* Veins being alſo quite divided.

Robert Andrews.

Tower of London ſs. AN Inquiſition Indented, Taken at the *Tower* of *London*, in the County of *Middleſex*, the Fourteenth day of *July*, in the Five and Thirtieth Year of the Reign of Our Soveraign Lord *Charles* the Second, by the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, *&c. Annoq;* *Dom.* 1683. before *Edward Farnham* Eſq; Coroner of the ſaid Lord the King, of the Liberty of the *Tower* of *London*, upon view of the Body of *Arthur* Earl of *Eſſex* then and there lying Dead, by the Oaths of *Daniel Colwell* Eſq; *William Fiſher*, *Thomas Godfel* Eſq; *Thomas Hunt*, *Nathaniel Mountney* Eſq; *Thomas Potter*, *William How*, *Robert Burgoine*, *Eleazar Wiggins*, *Thomas Hoggsfleſh*, *Henry Crips*, *Richard Rudder*, *William Knips*, *John Hudſon*, *John Kittlebeater*, *Lancolet Colſon*, *Morgan Cowarn*, *Thomas Bryan*, *William Thaxton*, *Richard Cliffe*, *Zebadia Richard*, *William Bayford*, and *Theophilus Charter*, good and lawful men of the Liberty of the *Tower* of *London* aforeſaid, who being Charged and Sworn to enquire how and in what manner the ſaid *Arthur* Earl of *Eſſex* came to his Death, upon their Oaths ſay, that the aforeſaid *Arthur* Earl of *Eſſex* the thirteenth day of *July*, in the ſaid five and thirtieth year of His now Majeſties Reign, at the ſaid *Tower* of *London*, in the ſaid County of *Middleſex*, about the ninth hour of the ſame day in the Forenoon, not having God before his Eyes, but being moved and ſeduced by the Inſtigation of the Devil, of his Malice forethought at the *Tower* of *London* aforeſaid, in the ſaid County of *Middleſex*, then and there being alone in a Cloſet, with one Raſour of the value of one ſhilling, Voluntarily and Felonioufly Cut his Throat, and did thereby give himſelf one Mortal Wound, it being cut from the one *Jugular* to the other, and through the Wind-pipe and Gullet unto the *Vertebres* of the Neck, both *Jugular* Veins being alſo quite Divided; of which ſaid Mortal Wound the ſaid *Arthur* Earl of *Eſſex* inſtantly Died; and thus the aforeſaid Jurors, upon their Oaths ſay, That the aforſaid *Arthur* Earl of *Eſſex*, in Manner and Form aforeſaid, did Voluntarily and Felonioufly, as *Felo de ſe*, Kill and Murther himſelf, againſt the Peace of our Lord the King, His Crown and Dignity. In Witneſs whereof, as well I the ſaid Coroner, as the Jurors aforeſaid, to this Inquiſition have put our Hands and Seals, the Day and Year aboveſaid.

Vera Copia Examin'cum Originali,

Per E. FARNHAM.

Edinburgh, Re-printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderſon*, Printer to His moſt Sacred Majeſty, 1683.